

AMENDMENT  
S/N 09/783,179, FILED 02/12/01

PATENT  
226-133

REMARKS

The above-referenced Office Action has been carefully reviewed and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested.

It is noted that the Bolding et al. (5,831,353) and the Yokota et al. (6,116,257) patents were apparently not cited on a Form PTO-892. It is respectfully requested that those two patents be listed on the patent that issues on this application.

Claims 24 and 34-42 have been allowed.

Claim 25 is indicated as being allowable if rewritten to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The limitations of now-canceled Claim 25 have been inserted into Claim 23 from which Claim 25 formerly depended.

It is respectfully submitted that Claims 26-33 depending from Claim 23 are now allowable.

Otherwise, the non-elected claims and the rejected claims have been canceled.

A title more descriptive of the claimed invention has been inserted.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 23, 24, and 26-42 are allowable and early action in that regard is respectfully requested.

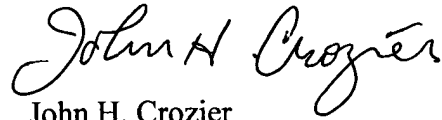
Should the Examiner have any questions as to the allowability of the claims or have any suggestions with respect to the wording thereof, the undersigned would be grateful for the privilege of a telephone conference with the Examiner.

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Date: January 12, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John H. Crozier".

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